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RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION

February 1, 1978

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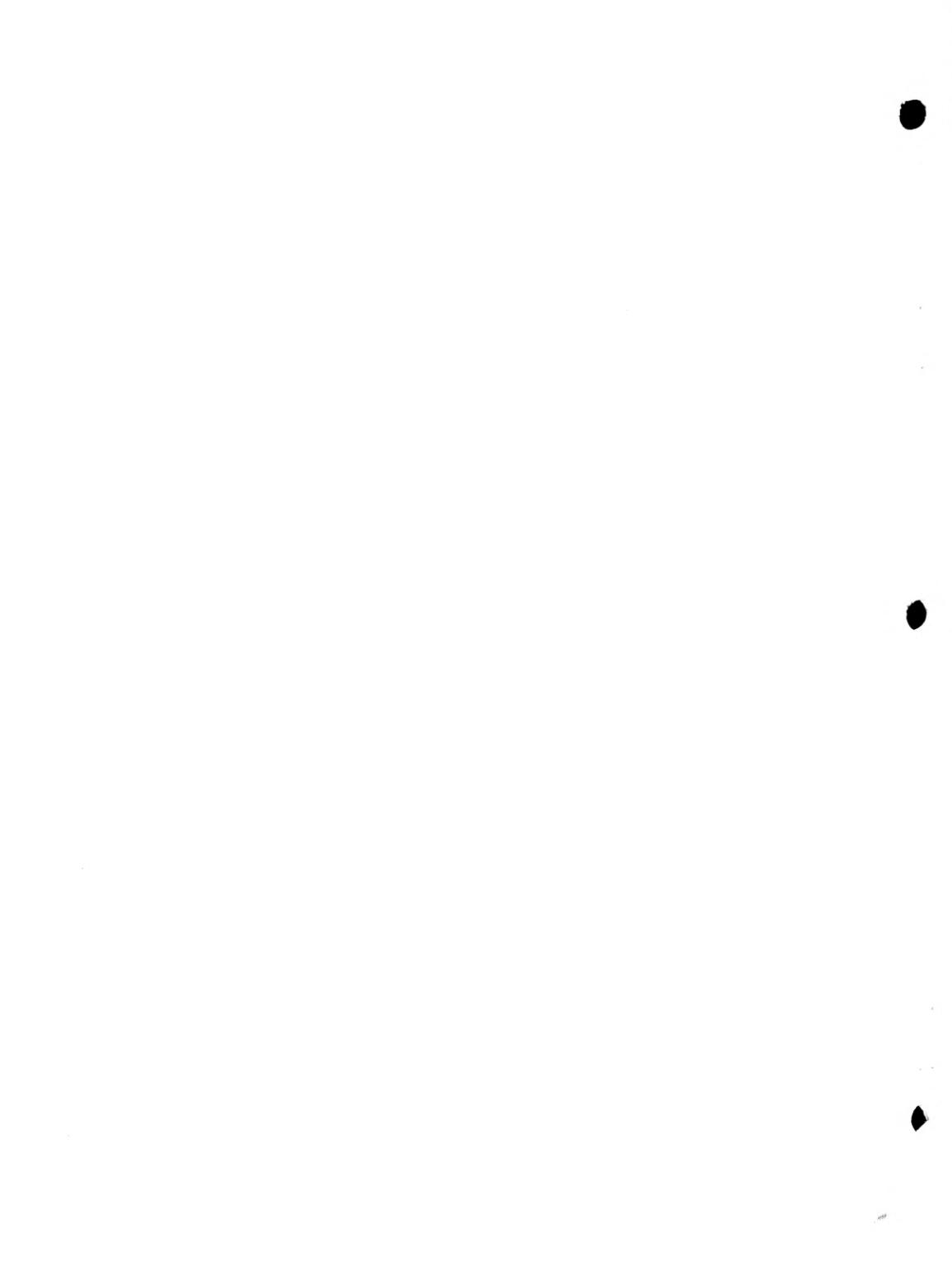
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**1976-77 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT**

**RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION**

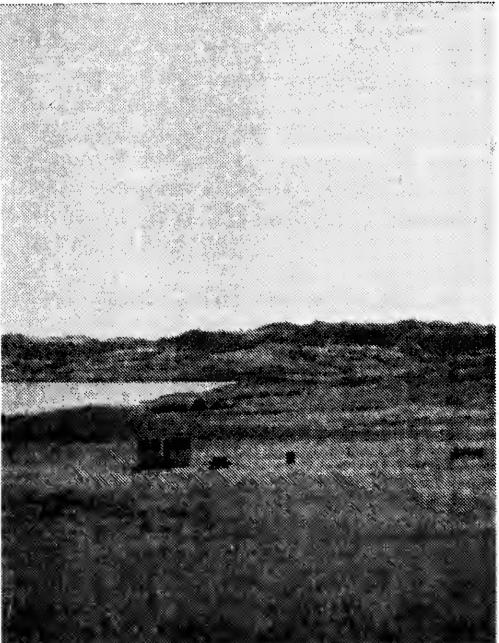
**February 1, 1978**



## 1976-77 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

### RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION

February 1, 1978



This annual report to the public describes the responsibilities and activities of the Recreation and Parks Division during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976, and ending June 30, 1977.

While this report is organized on a fiscal year basis, certain facts and figures are also given for the previous calendar year where it is more meaningful to do so.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

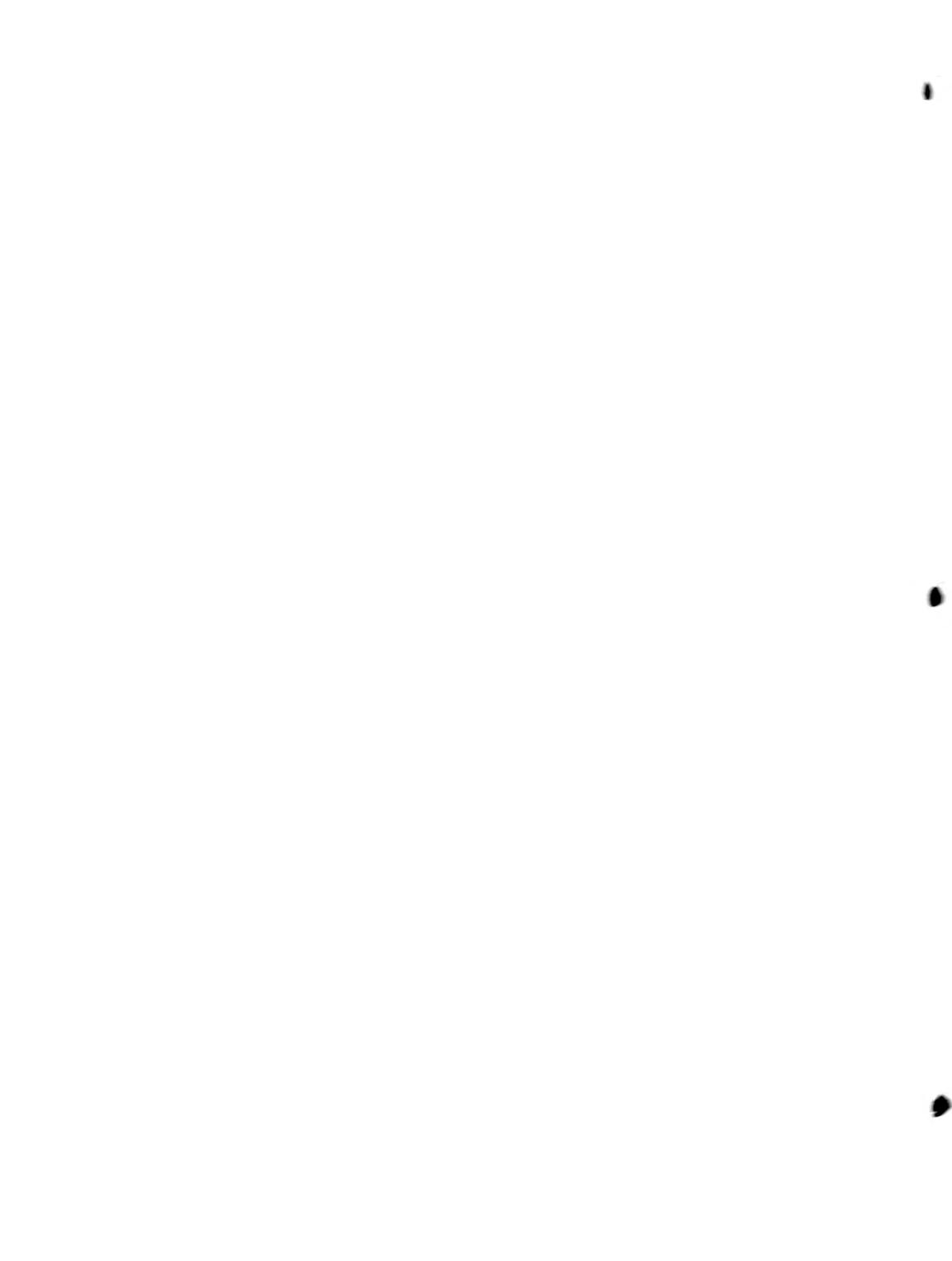
The primary responsibilities of the Recreation and Parks Division are to conserve the scenic, historic, archaeologic, scientific, and recreational resources of Montana and to make these resources available to the public. Such resources are made available through operation and maintenance of the state park system which includes state parks, state recreation areas, monuments, fishing access sites, recreational waterways, and recreation roads and trails. The division also administers the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act in Montana, and has responsibility for several other recreation producing programs.

#### The State Park System

*Hell Creek State Recreation Area on Fort Peck Reservoir became part of the state park system in 1949--  
Pat Gudmundson Collection.*

The call for state parks was a natural outgrowth of the national park idea and became a nationwide movement in the early 1920's. A national conference on state parks was called in 1921. The consensus of the group was that state parks were becoming necessary for three primary reasons:

1. To preserve areas of beauty and character that did not, for lack of national significance or other reasons, qualify as national parks;
2. To provide uncommercialized places for public rest and recreation;
3. To provide the vitalizing contact with nature which was once implicit in national life that a swiftly urbanizing population had become separated from.



A movement toward the creation of systems of recreation areas within the state started in the late 1950's. Although the contents of a state park system were negligible at first, definitions were utilized, criteria established and classifications proposed. Montana faced unique western problems in developing a state park system due to its sparse population, small towns, large land area and high percentage of federal land ownership as well as large areas of spectacular beauty already preempted by national parks.

The relationship between the promoters of a state park system, the state legislature, and the various state and national agencies led to unique solutions to the typical implementation and funding problems common to most states. These factors created the need for a Montana state park system and caused it over half a century now what it is today.

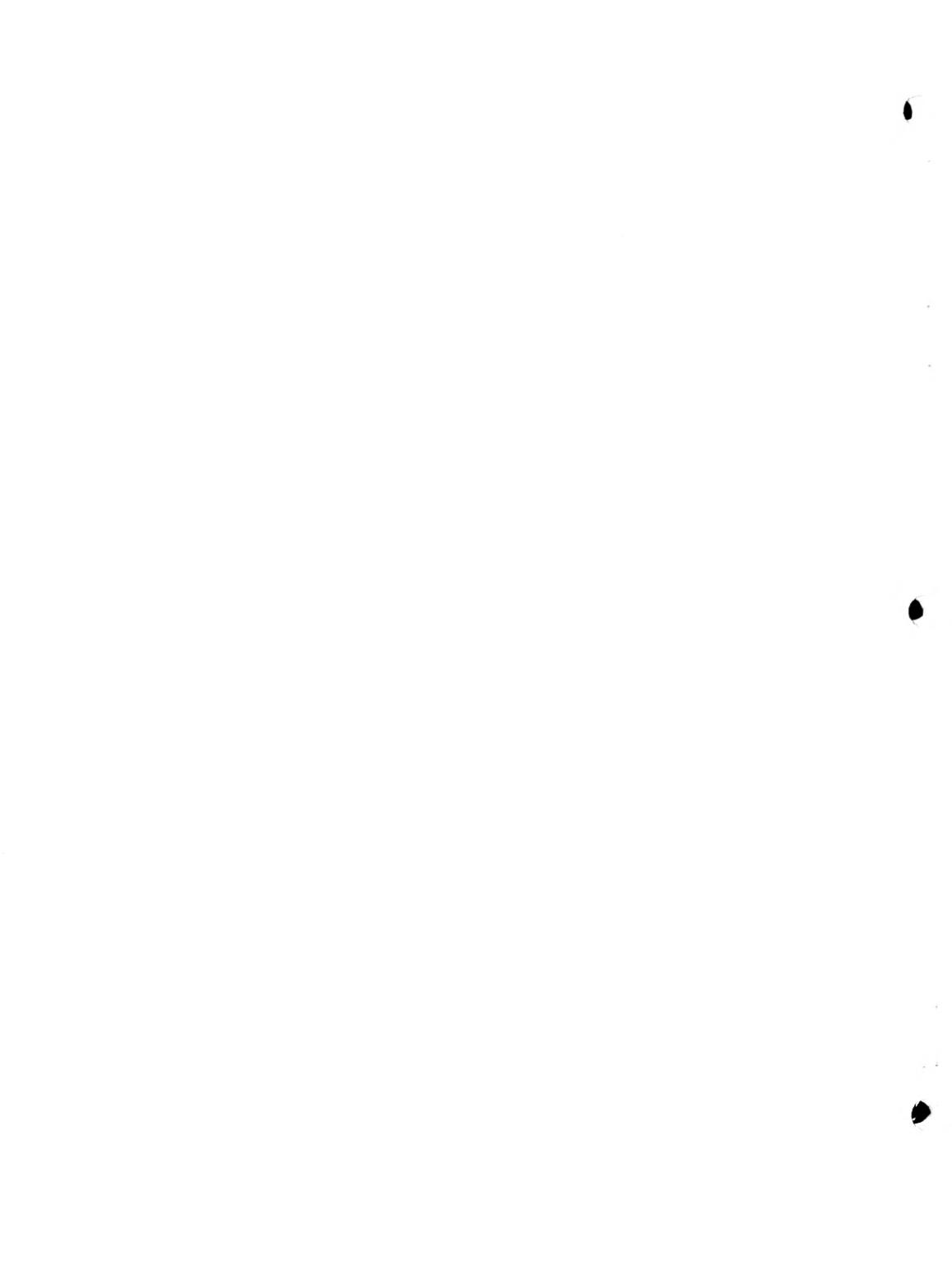
Federal encouragement during the 1950's was the major impetus for Montana's first state park in 1956 and comprehensive state park law in 1961. Further federal assistance during the 1960's provided for continuing expansion of the state park system. However, financial support of the greatly expanded park system remains crucial. Existing and additional recreational resources are to be provided for public use and enjoyment while "conserving the scenic, historical, archaeological, scientific and recreational resources of the state" (Section 81-301, R. I. M. 1961).

Visitors - An estimated 4,112,100 recreation occasions were provided during an estimated 1,401,441 visits to the Montana state park system during the 1974 calendar year. The visit results in approximately 4,000,000 recreation occasions. Overnight visits accounted for approximately 14 percent of the total. These figures exclude the 71,100 people who visited Lewis and Clark Canoe during 1974.

Park Service Areas - The opportunities above were provided in the following 141 park service areas during fiscal year 1974-75:

ID	Park Service Areas	Number as of	Number as of
		December 31, 1974	June 30, 1975
SP	State Parks	14	14
SPA	State Recreation Areas	14	14
SM	State Monuments	14	14
SPR	State Recreational Areas	14	14
SPR	State Recreation Areas	14	14
SPR	State Recreation Trails	14	14
PAS	State Fishing Access Sites	124	124
<hr/>		<hr/>	
<b>Total</b>		1,401,441	1,412,100

\*Not added in 1974.



A movement toward the creation of systems of recreation areas within the states emerged from this meeting. Although the contents of a state park system were nebulous at first, definitions were written, criteria established and classifications proposed. Montana faced typical western problems in developing a state park system due to its sparse population, small tax base, large land area and high percentage of federal land ownership as well as large areas of spectacular beauty already preempted as national parks.

The relationships between the promoters of a state park system, the state legislature, and the various state land managing agencies led to unique solutions to the typical organizational and funding problems common to many states. These factors created the idea for a Montana state park system and molded it over half a century into what it is today.

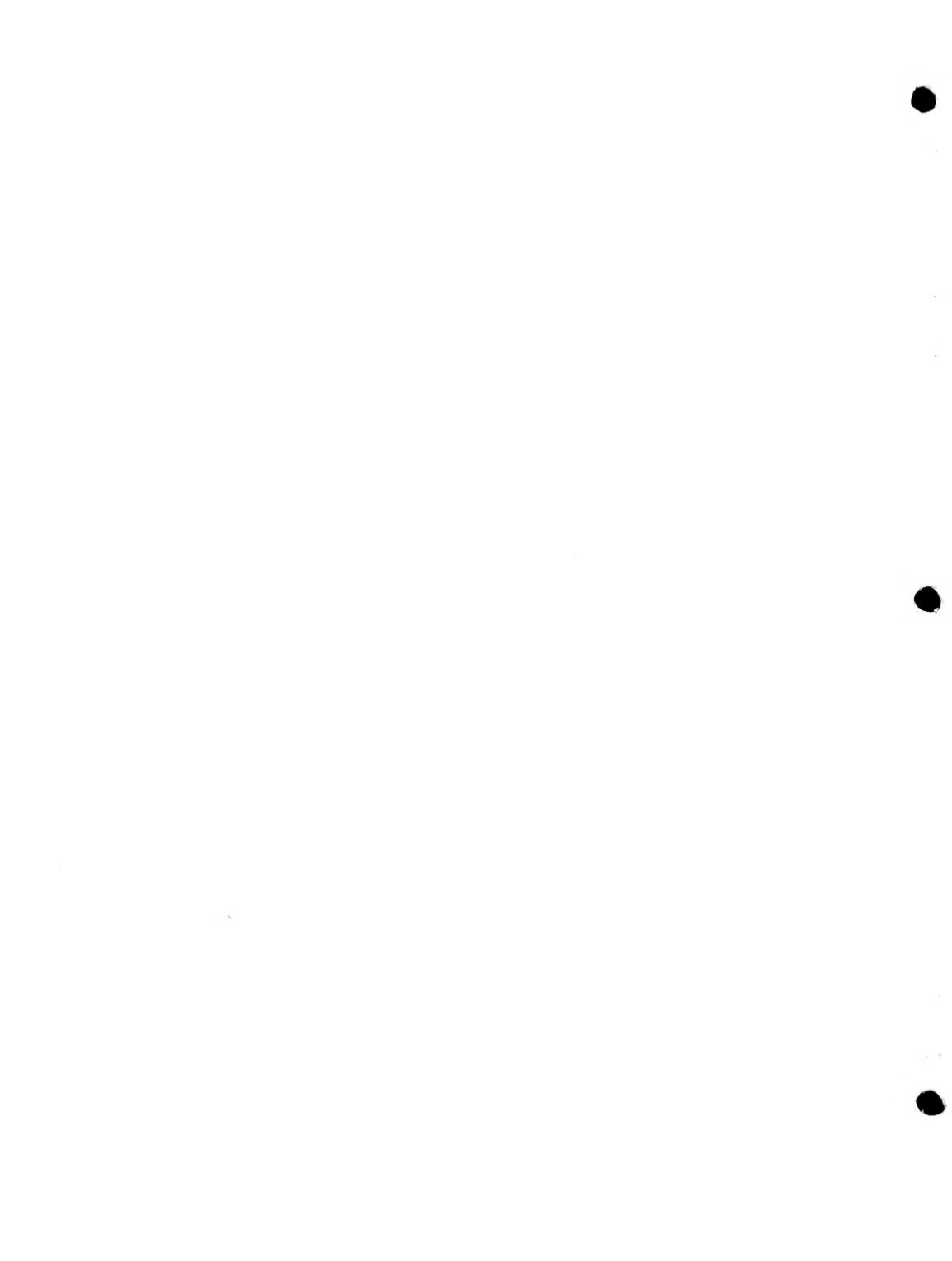
Federal encouragement during the 1930's was the major impetus for Montana's first state park in 1936 and comprehensive state park law in 1939. Further federal assistance during the 1960's provided for continuing expansion of the state park system. However, financial support of this greatly expanded park system remains critical if existing and additional recreational resources are to be provided for public "use and enjoyment" while "conserving the scenic, historic, archaeologic, scientific and recreational resources of the state" (Section 62-301, R.C.M. 1947).

Visitation -- An estimated 8,105,000 recreation occasions were provided during an estimated 2,051,842 visits to the Montana state park system during the 1976 calendar year (1 visit results in approximately 4 recreation activity occasions). Overnight visits accounted for approximately 25 percent of the total. These figures include the 70,168 people who toured Lewis and Clark Caverns during 1976.

Park System Areas -- The opportunities above were provided at the following 243 park system areas during fiscal year 1976-77:

		Number as of <u>December 31, 1976</u>	Number as of <u>June 30, 1977</u>
(SP)	State Parks	8	9
(SRA)	State Recreation Areas	54	55
(SM)	State Monuments	14	13
(SRW)	State Recreational Waterways	5*	5*
(SRR)	State Recreation Roads	1	1
(SRT)	State Recreation Trails	1*	1*
(FAS)	State Fishing Access Sites	158	165
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Total		235	243

\*Not added to total





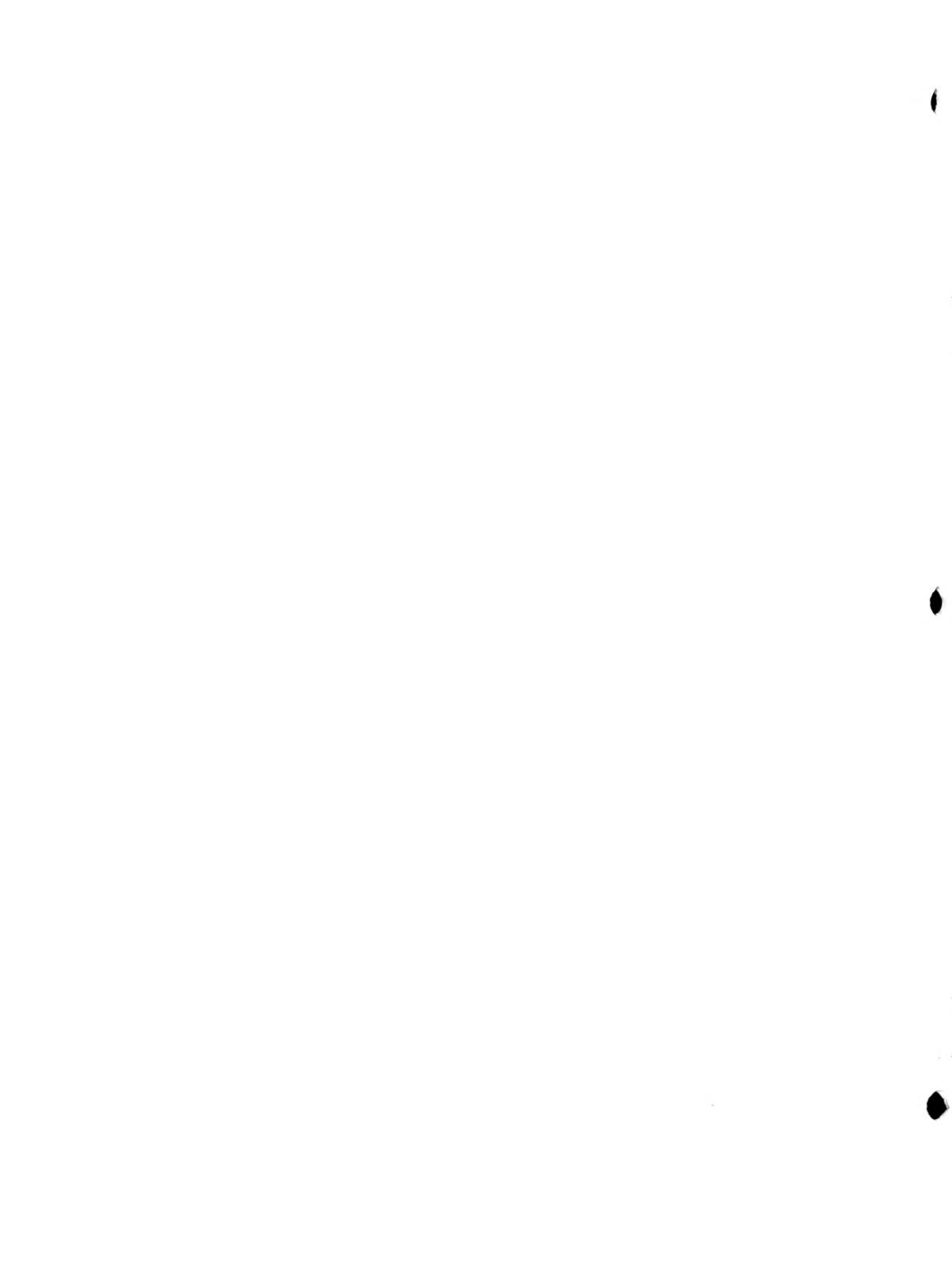
*Picnics are still as popular as they were 70 years ago and facilities have improved greatly--photo by Elrod, University of Montana Archives.*

Significant changes from last fiscal year's report include the reclassification of Bannack from a state monument to a state park on February 25, 1977. State recreation areas Clark Canyon Reservoir and Tiber Reservoir were returned to the administration of the federal Bureau of Reclamation by mutual agreement in September, 1976, and May, 1977, respectively. Problems created by very large fluctuations in water levels at both reservoirs and by modifications to Tiber Dam made management of these areas very costly to the state. The Bureau of Reclamation is now actively managing these areas for outdoor recreation. Also, Whittecar (Hamilton) Recreation Area purchased in January, 1976, was leased in May, 1977, to Ravalli County to be administered by the county as a rifle range.

Three new state recreation areas were added to the system during fiscal year 1976-77. Two areas, Fish Hawk day-use area and Chalet group-use area, were developed by the Parks Division out of the National Guard-leased recreation site on Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The most significant land acquisition, however, was the 55,000-acre Mount Haggin State Recreation Area near Anaconda.

Also listed in the park system are five rivers designated in 1972 as components of the state recreational waterway system. They are the segments of the Yellowstone, Missouri, Flathead, and Smith rivers and Rock Creek. These waterways are not reflected in the system totals, however, because they are not being actively managed as units although individual sites within these segments are classified and totaled in other categories.

The Missouri River Recreation Road near Wolf Creek, however, is listed as one unit although it does offer recreation facilities at several locations. The Belt Creek State Recreation Trail is listed but not reflected in the totals because it lies within Sluice Boxes State Monument.



Nine new state fishing access sites were acquired by purchase, lease, or gift and additions were made to three existing state parks, one existing state monument and two existing state fishing access sites. Also, on October 26, 1976, the Fish and Game Commission changed the name of Lake Mary Ronan State Recreation Area to Bob Lambeth Memorial State Recreation Area.

The following acquisitions were completed between July 1, 1976, and June 30, 1977:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
7-19-76	Mount Haggin SRA, Game Management Area - Deer Lodge	Silver Bow	55,000.	\$1,900,000.00 plus 1 million dollar donation	General recreation and game management
8- 5-76	Gallatin Forks FAS	Gallatin	268.	\$97,075.00	fishing and floating
8-12-76	Cobblestone Cove FAS	Gallatin	190.28	\$140,318.35	fishing and floating
9-10-76	Addition to Sluice Boxes SM	Cascade	140.99	\$352.48	wildlife habitat improvement
1976-77	Addition to Bannack SP	Beaverhead	32+	\$41,390.00	historic preservation
1976-77	Additions to Makoshika SP	Dawson	3,114.15	\$2,967.00	road and scenic easements
1-28-77	Droulliard FAS	Gallatin	40.52	\$22,287.10	fishing and floating
1-31-77	Addition to Giant Springs SP	Cascade	48.00	\$102,840.00	recreation, open space, and reg. hdq./interpretive center
2-27-77	Boulder Forks FAS	Sweet Grass	72.48	\$140,000.00	fishing
4- 7-77	Addition to Kokanee Bend FAS	Flathead	67.30	\$35,325.00	fishing and floating
5- 6-77	Carter's Bridge FAS	Park	2.82	\$9,500.00	fishing and floating
5-12-77	Forest Grove FAS	Mineral	5.45	\$25,000.00	fishing and floating
6-14-77	Pipe Organ FAS	Beaverhead	550.00	\$245,000.00	fishing
6-15-77	Petty Creek FAS and addition	Missoula	24.68	\$33,700.00	fishing and floating
6-22-77	Addition to Kelly Island FAS	Missoula	20.84	no charge	fishing and floating
6-22-77	Johnsrud Park FAS	Missoula	10.00	no charge	fishing and floating



## Land and Water Conservation Fund Administration

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal grants program that provides grants to the states and their political subdivisions to assist with acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Grants may be used to fund up to fifty percent of outdoor recreation project costs.

The Department of Fish and Game was designated in 1965, by law, as the state agency responsible for administration of the program. The Parks Division handles the program for the department. In the fourteen years since the program's inception, Montana has received \$19,055,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. With the fifty percent matching requirement this has resulted in excess of \$38,000,000 being expended on outdoor recreation areas and facilities in Montana as a direct result of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In fiscal 1977 Montana's Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment totaled \$1,635,221. Approximately seventy percent of Montana's fiscal 1978 apportionment was obligated to local projects with the remaining thirty percent obligated to projects sponsored by the State of Montana (figure 1). Generally, it is the intent of the Fish and Game Commission to achieve in the long run a fifty-fifty local/state split in apportioning Land and Water Conservation Funds.



*Roughing it in 1920 -- George Huber Collection*



Figure 1. Local Projects

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Fiscal '77 BOR Dollars</u>
Bozeman	tennis complex	\$ 60,000
Cascade County (Ulm)	park development	11,250
Cascade County (Black Eagle)	park development	25,000
Choteau	pool and tennis addition	10,250
Cut Bank	recreation complex	20,440
Dawson County	softball and playground	6,650
Fairfield	tennis courts	11,100
Flathead County	park development	6,800
Great Falls	park development	56,725
Great Falls	tennis complex	76,150
Hardin	park acquisition and development	10,750
Helena	golf course	137,791
Kalispell	park development	26,572
Lewis and Clark County	park development	2,050
Missoula	park development	30,450
Outlook	park development	2,500
Polson	tennis courts	14,550
Ravalli County	golf course	464,610
Red Lodge	tennis courts	28,600
Rudyard	tennis courts	10,500
Scobey	park development	13,080
Shelby	tennis courts	17,800
Sheridan	tennis courts	7,150
Sidney	parks development	20,450
Whitefish	parks acquisition and development	20,000

## State Projects

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fiscal '77 BOR Dollars</u>
Confer FAS/A	Jefferson River	\$ 6,686
Kokanee Bend II FAS/A	Flathead River	18,051
Pelican FAS/A	Yellowstone River	53,655
Forest Grove FAS/A & D	Clark Fork River	20,000
Pipe Organ FAS/A	Beaverhead River	116,944
Roche Juane FAS/A	Yellowstone River	3,466
Natural Bridge/D	Sweet Grass County	74,095
Heritage Park SP/A	Cascade County	63,685
Hellgate SRA/D	Canyon Ferry Reservoir	99,540
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan		87,880



Old West Regional Commission--In May of 1977 the governors of the Old West Regional Commission (OWRC) approved a regional program to supplement the basic grants provided to the states through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These supplemental grants were to be used for any development projects that were eligible for use of Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars. The Parks Division of the Department of Fish and Game was given the responsibility of administering the OWRC supplemental grants program in Montana.

Each of the Old West states were allocated supplemental grant monies equal to ten percent of their annual apportionment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Montana received \$163,522 from the OWRC in fiscal 1977.

In 1977, OWRC dollars, in Montana, were handled identically to the way Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars were handled.

Five local projects submitted by Montana communities and one state project received OWRC grants. Figure 2 lists the sponsors and projects receiving OWRC grants.

Figure 2.

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>OWRC Dollars</u>
State of Montana	Lewis and Clark Caverns/D	\$ 74,662
Glasgow	miniature golf course	5,100
Lewistown	skating rink	4,080
Conrad	tennis courts	25,500
Hamilton	pool renovation	15,300
Pondera County	golf course improvement	38,250

#### New Legislation and other Responsibilities

The 1977 legislature passed several laws which affect the operation of the Parks Division. Planned program budgeting was implemented by the division and department on July 1, 1977, as a result of House Bill 631, 1975 session.

The Montana Snowmobile Association sponsored House Bill 340 to collect three-tenths of one percent of the gasoline tax as a snowmobile fuel tax to be used by the Parks Division in addition to the \$1.00 annual registration fees allocated to the division for snowmobile facilities. This law passed and the estimated \$106,000 per year fund, unlike the registration fees, can also be used for trail grooming and area operation and maintenance.

Also, the motorboat fuel tax law (Section 32-2601, R.C.M. 1947) was amended by House Bill 635 from six-tenths percent of the gasoline tax to nine-tenths percent on the basis of research done by the division as to the amount of gasoline used by motorboats. This estimated additional \$108,000 per year will help to fund operations, maintenance, and development of areas where motorboating is allowed.

This was the first year that the coal tax (Section 84-1319, R.C.M. 1947) was in effect accruing funds for park acquisition. The division requested legislation to amend the coal tax to provide for parks operations and maintenance as well as acquisition.

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This bill (Senate Bill 44) was passed and also included provisions for this money to be used to maintain paintings in the capitol. Another Senate Bill (117) was passed allowing part of the fishing license fees earmarked for purchase of fishing access sites to also be used for development, operations, and maintenance.

Also, House Bill 644 was enacted into law allowing Montana residents over 65 years of age to purchase a lifetime "Golden Years Pass" for \$1.00 which allows them and those who accompany them to use the facilities in all state park system areas.

Other responsibilities -- The administration in Montana of the National Park Service's historic preservation grant program was by mutual agency agreement and by executive order transferred to the Montana Historical Society effective January 1, 1977. This program is closely related to and will complement other programs administered by the Historical Society. In turn, relief of this responsibility will allow the department to more appropriately concentrate its efforts on site oriented activities including the administration of state monuments and other historic sites.

#### Fiscal Year 1976-1977 Activities

##### Planning

The Department of Fish and Game is the state agency responsible for the maintenance of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and undertook a number of studies during the past fiscal year to update it. These studies included:

July 1976 - Summer Resident Recreation Mail-out Survey  
February 1977 - Winter Resident Recreation Mail-out Survey  
Survey of Recreational Needs of the Handicapped  
The Department Fee Structure Study  
Studies Relating to the Identification of Alternate Funding Sources to Support the Parks System  
A Study of the Present Land Acquisition System  
Miscellaneous Cooperative Studies with other Agencies

These studies will provide management information for the park program and statistical information for use by all agencies responsible for outdoor recreation in Montana. Maintenance of this plan is required by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for Montana to remain eligible for the receipt of Land and Water Conservation Funds.

By the end of the fiscal year the results of these SCORP studies were being reviewed along with park system management problem identification reports by regional park managers. This provided the basis for formulating the draft of SCORP which was sent out to all Fish and Game regional offices for review during the summer of 1977.

Other planning projects completed during 1976-77 included recreation data collection and interpretation for the Montana subregions of the Missouri River Basin Commission's Yellowstone River and Adjacent Coal Areas Level B Study. Also, the end of the fiscal year saw completion of the first draft of a history of the Montana State Park System to be published later by the department.



## Design and Development

During fiscal 1977, 12 sites within the park system were improved under the long-range building program. Planning for improvements at 33 other sites within the system was under way. This included improvements made at 18 fishing access sites and the design improvements at six recreation areas.

The Statewide Bicentennial Project was awarded to the Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee for their proposed project at the Missouri Headwaters State Park. Division personnel have worked very closely with the committee members and the consulting team in the design of this project. This approach has been valuable and rewarding.



*Access to lakes and streams is as important today as it was 77 years ago--photo by Elrod, University of Montana archives.*

## Construction projects, 1976-1977 fiscal year --

<u>Site</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Bitterroot Lake SRA	water and caretaker	44,000
Whitefish SRA	utilities, comfort station, caretaker	75,000
Finley Point SRA	water, utilities, caretaker	20,000
Cobblestone Cove FAS	fencing	3,000
Missouri Headwaters SP	complete facilities inc. interp.	500,000
West Shore, Canyon Ferry SRA	road imp	47,000
Helgate SRA	roads, utilities, com. sta., caretaker	180,000
Sluice Boxes SM	fencing	5,000

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Construction Projects--1976-1977 fiscal year (continued)

<u>Site</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Beartooth SRA	water, parking, caretaker	43,000
Big Timber Bridge FAS	roadwork	5,000
South Sandstone SRA	landscaping	20,000
Makoshika SP	roadwork	113,000

Construction Projects Currently in the Planning Stages

Placid Lake SRA  
 Salmon Lake SRA  
 Giant Springs-Heritage Park SP  
 Natural Bridge SM  
 Tongue River FAS  
 Elk Island SRA  
 Seven Sisters SRA  
 Kohrs Bend FAS  
 Total of 20 site protection projects  
 5 long-range building projects  
 Lewis and Clark Caverns SP

Other Bureau Activities completed during the Fiscal Year --

New Montana Recreation Guide brochure  
 Blackfoot River brochure  
 Plenty Coups Memorial SM brochure  
 Survey of Canyon Ferry cabin sites  
 4 management plans

Operations and Maintenance

Fiscal year activities -- Rising maintenance costs resulted in an expansion of our "pack-in, pack-out" garbage removal program to a large number of fishing access sites. This program is working well where use is not heavy.

As a result of department reorganization by the new director in May, 1977, the Recreation and Parks Division recommended name changes which we believe will be more descriptive of our activities. These changes became operative July 1, 1977. The division became the Parks Division and the Design and Development Bureau became the Design and Construction Bureau.

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A personnel chart of the Recreation and Parks Division as of June 30, 1977, is shown in Figure 3.

Several personnel changes occurred during the fiscal year. Lewis and Clark Caverns assistant park manager, Stephanie Gibert, was promoted to park manager on December 1, 1976, to fill the vacancy created when Dan Vincent became Region 7 park manager. On January 31, 1977, Dave Todd was hired as the caverns assistant park manager. Roy Herset was promoted to park manager at Bannack retroactive to April, 1977.

This was also a year for changes in the secretarial staff. Jeanette Thornton transferred into the Parks Division from the director's office and became administrative secretary on January 29, 1977, after Betty Disney left the division. Carol Russell transferred from Centralized Services Division to fill a secretarial position on February 14, 1977, which opened when Olive Price transferred to the Centralized Services Division. Also, Agnes Wismer was hired as a part-time clerk typist on January 3, 1977.

Funding Sources and Expenditures -- Operations and maintenance funding for the division's activities comes from several sources (see figure 4 also):

General Fund. The Department of Fish and Game's only use of general tax money is this appropriation used to maintain state parks, monuments and recreation areas.

Motorboat Fuel Tax. The division collects 0.6% of gasoline tax received by the state, the minimum amount used by boaters. This money is used solely on areas where motorboating is allowed for operations, maintenance and for limited development.

Earned Revenue. Annual appropriations are required to give the division authority to spend entrance fees collected at Lewis and Clark Caverns, camping fees, cabin site rentals, and small miscellaneous amounts collected elsewhere for operations and maintenance of state parks, recreation areas and monuments.

License Money. The division receives appropriations from the earmarked license account for operations and maintenance of fishing access sites. This money is not spent on state parks, recreation areas or monuments.

Federal and Private Revenue. Relatively small appropriations are usually given for operations from this account. This money is used to maintain the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and for preplanning for capital projects.

Capital projects are funded from the long-range building fund from federal and private revenue (primarily use of federal matching programs), from earmarked license money (for fishing access acquisition and development), in limited amounts, from the motorboat fuel tax account, and from earmarked revenue derived from snowmobile registration fees.

Coal Tax. Through passage of SB 87, the 44th legislature provided for a perpetual land acquisition fund to purchase state parks, monuments, recreation areas and historic sites. This will, in the future, provide a major source of division funding. Accounting

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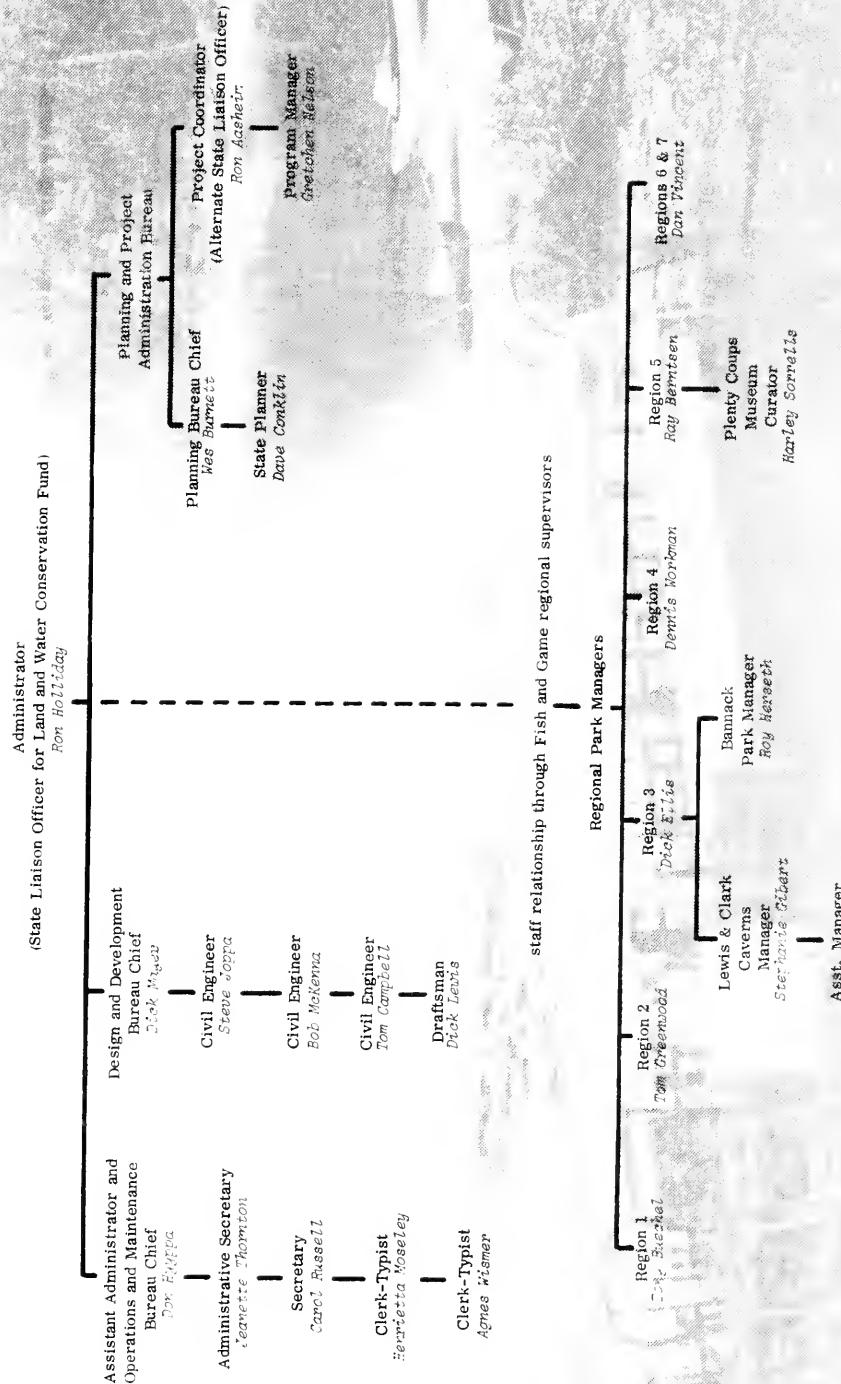
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Figure 3. Recreation and Parks Division  
Personnel Chart June 30, 1977



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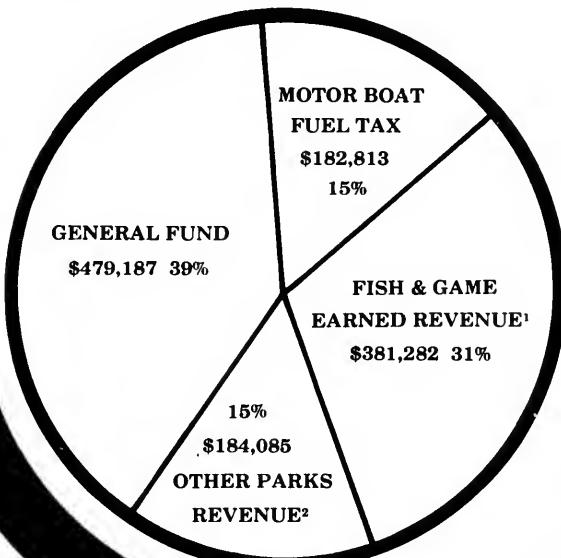
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procedures have been established to begin collecting the earmarked revenue. Spending authority must be granted through legislative appropriations. The division has identified several potential acquisitions and has requested authority to make these purchases through the long-range building program.

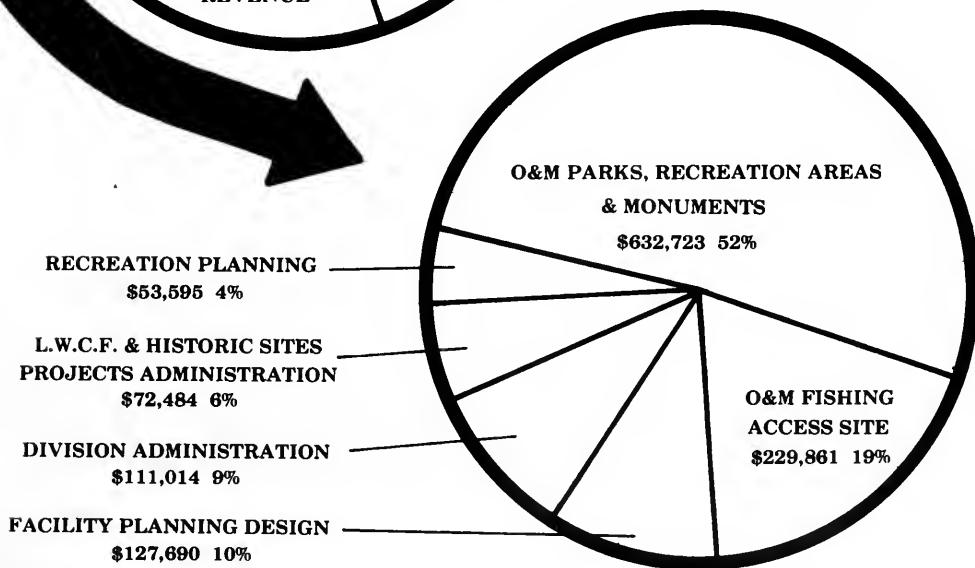
## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUNDING SOURCES.... (FY 1977 = \$1,227,367)

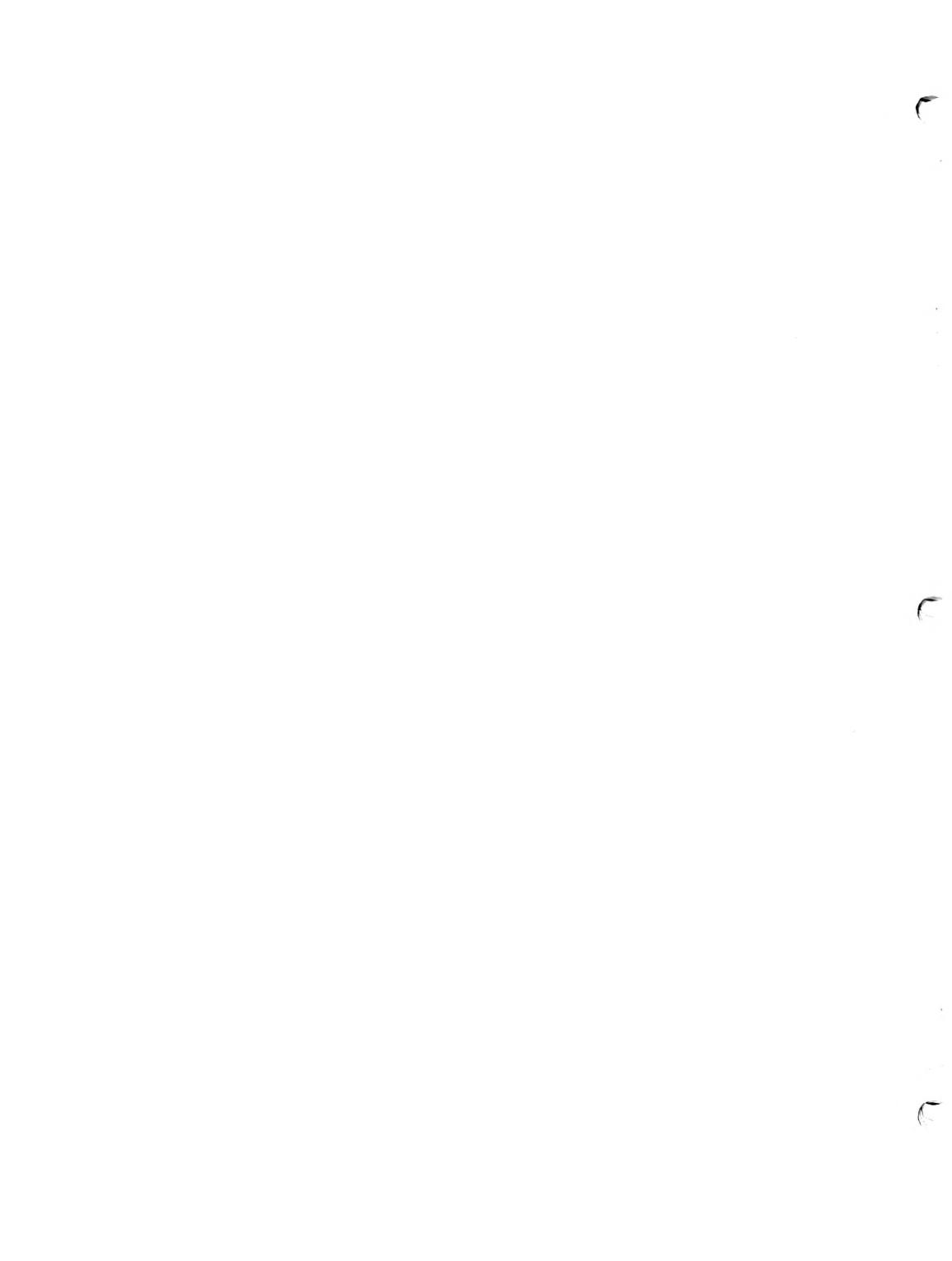
Figure 4.



<sup>1</sup>Sportmen's Licenses  
<sup>2</sup>Camping Fees  
 Caverns Entrance Fee  
 Concession Fees  
 Cabin Leases  
 F.P.R.A.

## HOW FUNDS ARE EXPENDED....





## Problems and Opportunities

In recent years, we have been actively seeking alternatives to the traditional "buy and build" methods of providing for outdoor recreation. We are striving to maximize the benefits which accrue from the efforts and money which we expend. To that end we have initiated a number of private projects in cooperation with other agencies in the private sector. We are most proud of our accomplishments in this area and list some of the more significant of these during the reporting period:

1. The creation and management of the Blackfoot River Corridor. This corridor provides public access to the river through private lands, public lands and quasi-public lands which otherwise would not have been available. This was accomplished through the cooperative efforts of Missoula County, Champion International Corporation, private landowners, The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Fish and Game and other state agencies. This effort is unique in the nation and has substantially demonstrated that it is a workable alternative to the creation of wild and scenic rivers. It is thus far successful in meeting its goals and is receiving national attention.
2. The Heritage Park addition to Giant Springs State Park. A private fund drive in Great Falls provided the local share of acquisition money which was matched with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. Local funds are also providing for clean-up and limited development of the area. The local committee is actively participating with us in the planning for the park addition.
3. The donation by Champion International Corporation of recreation tracts at Salmon and Placid Lakes. When complete the project will include the installation of recreational facilities using Land and Water Conservation Funds in match with the donated value of the land. The facilities will be provided at no cost to the State of Montana. An environmental impact statement and management plan is being prepared.
4. Through the cooperative efforts of the department and the Flathead County Park Board, a very successful pilot winter recreation program was conducted at Foy Lake near Kalispell last season. It will be continued again this year and we will be cautiously looking for other cooperative programs which could provide similar facilities in other areas.
5. The recreation facilities at the newly created South Sandstone Reservoir were completed. This entire project including the reservoir itself resulted from efforts of private individuals, the local irrigation district, the SCS, Fallon County and the department. The area is getting heavy recreational use and has been enthusiastically received.
6. The major construction work at Missouri Headwaters State Park has been completed. This project is a result of local sponsorship which enabled the department to install improvements at the state's bicentennial site. The local



sponsor was the Headwaters Improvement Subcommittee of the Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee. The committee actively participated in the planning and design of the project.

A lawsuit brought against the department by Link Brothers, concessionaires, in June, 1976, has not been resolved. At issue is the operation of the tram and miniature railroad at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park. The suit is expected to go to jury trial in the fall of 1977.

Recommendations for Program Improvement -- The improved enforcement of public use regulations at state park system sites has been identified by a survey of recreationists and by department administrative personnel to be the top priority problem to be addressed. Expressions from members of the 1977 legislature are evidence of their concern as well. The department is implementing measures to address that problem. These measures include:

1. Providing funding other than earned revenue license monies for the enforcement of park regulations, and
2. Providing an activity decision package within the park program which specifically addresses program enforcement efforts.

Early experimentation with the priority budget system indicates that it should be streamlined and simplified if it is going to be an effective management tool.

Experience has shown that the park system should be looking for alternative sources of funding. Our goal is to shift to park users an equitable share of the financial support for the program. While there is justification for continuing to support the program from general tax revenues in part, an equitable balance must be sought. Preliminary studies have been undertaken and will be continued in an effort to find workable alternatives.

#### Fiscal Year 1976-1977 Publications

During the period July 1, 1976, through June 30, 1977, the Parks Division completed the following publications:

Montana Department of Fish and Game, Recreation and Parks Division. Montana Recreation Guide. June 30, 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_. Blackfoot River Guide. June 30, 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_. Plenty Coups State Monument. June 1, 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_. Land and Water Conservation Fund. June 15, 1977.



\_\_\_\_\_. Handbook: Land and Water Conservation Fund. January, 1977  
41 pp.

\_\_\_\_\_. Montana Department of Fish and Game Funding Summary.  
January 21, 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_. Canyon Ferry Management and Development Plan and Environmental  
Impact Statement. May 25, 1977. 56 pp.

\_\_\_\_\_. Management Plan: Beartooth State Recreation Area. January  
3, 1977. 19 pp.

Ron Aasheim. "The Land and Water Conservation Fund." Montana Outdoors  
Jan/Feb 1977. pp. 19-21

G. Wesley Burnett. "Recreation and the Aged and Physically Handicapped; Toward a  
Positive Research Methodology." Planning Notes, Federal Bureau of Outdoor  
Recreation, Mid-Continent Regional Office, Denver, Colorado. February, 1977.

David G. Conklin. "State Survey of Motor Fuel Tax Allocations for Recreation."  
Planning Notes, Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Mid-Continent Regional  
Office, Denver, Colorado. February, 1977.

Exibgraphics Group. Visitor Communication Plan, Lewis and Clark Caverns State  
Park. Salt Lake City, Utah. February 15, 1977. 48 pp.













